

**THE EYE IN GENERAL PRACTICE.** By C. R. S. Jackson, M.A., B.M., F.R.C.S. Fifth Edition. (Pp. viii+174; figs. 44. £1.50). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969.

A further edition of this book two years after its predecessor evinces its popularity. The subject is presented in a very acceptable manner and the format of the volume with good print and informative illustrations, many in colour, make it a pleasure to handle and read. The opportunity has been taken to insert in appropriate places reference to new developments in treatment or technique, for example, the value of 5-iodo-2-Deoxyuridine in herpes simplex keratitis, and, as in the previous edition, a timely warning is given against the use of steroid in these conditions.

In detachment therapy the use of cryopexy and light coagulation is referred to. From these examples the reader can feel that he is handling a book which within its field is well up-to-date. Reference may perhaps be made to the chapters on Squint and Errors of Refraction which have helpful diagrams and give a lucid account of matters that can be at times puzzling.

In a concise textbook of this nature the beginner on this subject should recognise that while it contains nearly all he needs to know it is requisite for him to know *all* that it contains and as with any clinical subject the full import of many statements can only be appreciated in conjunction with clinical experience.

J.A.C.

**MODERN TRENDS IN PAEDIATRICS – 3.** Edited by John Apley. (Pp. x+347; illustrated. £4.20). London: Butterworths, 1970.

THIS book consists of a collection of up-to-date review articles on important recent developments in paediatrics. Thirteen subjects are discussed: The Epidemiology of Congenital Malformations (Smithells), The Prevention of Rhesus Haemolytic Disease (Finn), Oxygen-Conserving Adaptation of the Foetal Circulation (Saling), Neonatal Surgery (Zachary), Screening Procedures for Inborn Errors of Metabolism (Komrower), Intensive Therapy Units (Jones), Chemotherapy of Malignant Disease (Kay), Child Health and Nutrition (Wharton), Malabsorption (Anderson), Nephrology (Edelmann and Barnett), The Care of Handicapped Children (MacKeith), Autistic and Hyperkinetic Syndromes (Ounsted), and Paediatric Education in Britain (Neligan and Jackson).

In an allegorical reference to the war against disease, the Editor comments '... advances are continually being made on many fronts, not only by organised forces but by guerillas. The Paediatric front itself is so broad and so scattered that complete and detailed coverage is hardly possible; more practicable and more immediately relevant is front-line reporting from salient points'. Dr. Apley is to be congratulated on his wide ranging choice of salient topics and on his selection of front-line reporters. Each contributor is an acknowledged expert in his subject which has resulted in a high standard of authoritative 'reporting'. The subject matter is generally well presented and comprehensive, often practical and stimulating and at times speculative. This book is without question a most valuable addition to present day paediatric literature.

I.J.C.

**SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME.** Edited by A. B. Bergman, J. B. Beckwith and C. G. Ray. (Pp. xix+248; figs. 27. \$10.00 or £4.75). Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1970.

THIS is a record of the proceedings at the Second International Conference on Causes of Sudden Deaths in Infants held in Seattle, Washington, in 1969. The conference was attended by active investigators who presented their work and also by some scientists not so directly involved who took part in critical discussion. The editors are to be congratulated on how they have welded the papers and the spirited and informal discussion into a very readable and acceptable publication.

The syndrome, now acceptably designated 'Sudden infant death syndrome' (SIDS), relates to those tragic instances when a previously well infant, usually between two and four months, is found dead in its cot (cot death), or is brought dead or dying to hospital. The incidence of this approaches 2.5 per 1,000 births in areas of adequate assessment, and the practitioner may at any time have such a tragedy in his practice. From this book he will learn much of the theories, discarded or still tenable, which have been proposed to explain these cases. If he reads critically he will appreciate that very real progress is being made, especially since the first conference in 1963. While no answer to the problem is available, both the papers and discussions contain valuable suggestions, and both pathologists and paediatricians may be surprised by how much information, some of it perhaps valuable in other contexts, they will find as the discussion ranges widely.

Prominent among the papers presented were three by Professor Peter Froggart and one by Dr. T. K. Marshall recording work done in Northern Ireland, and these representatives from Belfast contributed in a valuable way to the discussion. It is hoped that the next number of this Journal will carry a more detailed report of these important investigations in this province.

J.E.M.

**INFANT FEEDING.** By Mavis Gunther. (Pp. xiv+112; illustrated. £1.25). London: Methuen, 1970.

OVER four-fifths of this book is devoted to a consideration of the physiology, management, advantages and difficulties of breast feeding – a reflection of the importance the author attaches to this form of infant feeding. Few would disagree with the views expressed though the suggestion on page 4 that sudden unexplained death is less likely to occur if infants are breast fed is not supported by the recent Northern Ireland study of cot deaths.

Though a devotee of breast feeding, Dr. Gunther is by no means a slavish, intolerant advocate of this mode of infant feeding. Her considerable experience gained from thirty years' study of the subject is evident in the authoritative, sympathetic, practical and common-sensical manner with which she deals with her subject. Though the book is intended primarily as a guide for expectant and nursing mothers, it could be read with advantage by all who have to advise mothers both before and after the birth of their babies, for, as the author so rightly emphasises, "... where there *are* difficulties in the first days of feeding from the breast, success or failure depends largely on the knowledge and understanding of the attendant and seldom on the mother or baby."

I.J.C.

**WILL PICKLES OF WENSLEYDALE.** By John Pemberton. (Pp. 224; illustrated; £2.50). London: Geoffrey Bles, 1970.

WILL PICKLES worked as a general practitioner in the Yorkshire Dales for over half a century, but he was no ordinary man. His career began inauspiciously with failure in his M.B. examination but he subsequently gained many honours, culminating in his election, near the end of his life, as F.R.C.P. London.

In the course of a busy country practice his persistent enquiry led him to unravel many problems of the spread of infective disease and he earned a world-wide reputation as a practical epidemiologist after the publication of his book, "Epidemiology in Country Practice". His fame stands with that of Jenner, Budd and Mackenzie and his keen perception combined with "Continuity of Observation" led to his outstanding contributions to our knowledge of infective hepatitis, Bornholm disease and many other infectious conditions.

After the Second World War Pickles travelled extensively throughout the world, but the story of these journeys does not hold the reader's attention so keenly as the fascinating description of medical practice and country life in the early part of the twentieth century.

In the later part of the book the description of the many honours showered on Will Pickles, and his happy association with the Royal College of General Practitioners ensures the happy ending which is desirable in any tale. Professor Pemberton has produced a biography of outstanding interest, worthy of comparison with "The Beloved Physician".

K.F.